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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
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Inspection
Service

Policy and Program
Development

Environmental and
Risk Analysis
Services, Unit 149
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
20737

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Document Processing Desk [6(a)(2)]
Office of Pesticide Programs (7504P)
Ariel Rios Building
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460-0001

ATTN: Norman Spurling (7502P)

SUBJECT: **FIFRA, Section 6(a)(2) report: Secondary report of an adverse incident involving sodium fluoroacetate (Compound 1080)**

Out of an abundance of concern, we are reporting secondary information of an incident involving the deliberate off-label misuse of a pesticide. The incident, detailed in enclosure 1, involved the poisoning of a gray wolf with sodium fluoroacetate (Compound 1080) in Colorado in February 2009. There is no evidence that an APHIS-registered product was involved in the incident. APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) does not use this product in Colorado nor is it registered in that State.

Please direct any questions pertaining to this adverse incident report to Ann Nasr at (301) 734-5170 or e-mail ann.m.nasr@aphis.usda.gov.

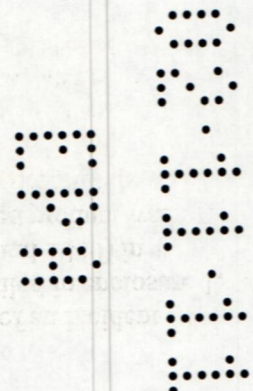
Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Seeley, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental and Risk Analysis Services

Enclosure



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ENCLOSURE

Wildlife investigators: Poison killed Colo. wolf

By CATHERINE TSAI Associated Press

Posted: 01/10/2011 11:46:04 AM MST

Updated: 01/10/2011 05:10:19 PM MST

DENVER—Toxicology tests show a gray wolf that strayed from Montana into Colorado where it was found dead in 2009 was killed by Compound 1080, a poison that is banned in Colorado, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Monday.

The agency is seeking the public's help to pinpoint the source.

Compound 1080, or sodium fluoroacetate, was commonly used to control coyotes, foxes and rodents until the U.S. banned it in 1972, but the rule has been modified. Today its only legal use is in collars used to protect sheep and goats from coyotes, and only in certain states. Colorado is not one of them.

It's possible people who had the poison on hand before 1972 are still holding on to it, said Steve Oberholtzer, special agent in charge for the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service's Mountain-Prairie Region.

"That's what we're hoping to find: who has it and who's still using it," Oberholtzer said.

Investigators suspect the wolf ingested the poison near where she was found, near Rio Blanco County Road 60 on April 6, 2009.

Officers with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Colorado Division of Wildlife said they could not find any evidence of traps, poison baits or other potential causes of death in the area or other spots she visited before her death.

Colorado's native population of the gray wolf was wiped out by poisoning and trapping decades ago, but government-sponsored reintroduction programs have helped the animal come back in some states. It is considered endangered in Colorado.

The wolf that died was from Montana's Mill Creek pack and was wearing a GPS collar as part of a Montana research project. Her collar indicated she broke from her pack and wandered more than 1,000 miles, passing through Wyoming, Idaho and Utah before ending up in Eagle County in February 2009.

"Her premature death from deadly poison points illustrates that the West presents a dangerous minefield to wide-ranging native carnivores such as wolves, wolverines and bears," said Wendy Keefover-Ring of the group WildEarth Guardians.

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"It is a deadly toxicant should not be manufactured or used at all," she said.

The Environmental Protection Agency in 2009 rejected a request from WildEarth Guardians and others who sought to completely ban Compound 1080 and spring-loaded sodium cyanide M-44 devices, both of which are used to keep coyotes away from livestock.

Now the EPA is conducting its regular review of Compound 1080, to see if it needs to consider other steps to protect threatened and endangered species.

The American Sheep Industry Association supports the legal use of both for predator control.

When Compound 1080 is used legally, "It is the most selective predator tool you can find," said Peter Orwick, executive director of the association.

A livestock collar releases the poison when an animal's teeth puncture it. "The only way it takes a coyote is when the coyote attacks a ewe and bites her neck," Orwick said.

The wolf isn't the only one to have wandered into Colorado from the Yellowstone area. Another Yellowstone-area female wolf wearing a radio collar was hit and killed by a vehicle on Interstate 70 near Idaho Springs, west of Denver, in 2004.

People with tips on the wolf that died were

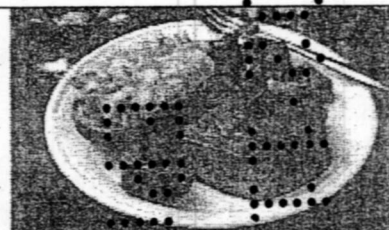
asked to call the Colorado Division of Wildlife's Operation Game Thief hotline at (877) 265-6648 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (720) 981-2777.

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